

COLVIN'S WEEKLY REGISTER.

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[VOL. 1.

Mr. ROSE.—The gentlemen of the daily papers to the eastward, and their correspondents in this city, have been amusing the public for some time past with strange stories concerning the mission of Mr. Rose, and his negotiation with the government of the United States. The crumbs of which these tales are made up, have generally been collected from the loose chat and common tattle always to be met with at the hotels and in the boarding-houses of Washington City; and are conveyed in letters per mail, and by passengers who have sojourned a day or two at the seat of the general government. At one time the people are told that the adjustment of differences is going on quite gaily and amicably; at another time that every thing is up in the wind, all a-back, and that the British minister extraordinary is on the wing for St. James: One day the negotiation is broken off; the next day it is resumed: Now we have Mr. Rose with full powers to treat on all points in dispute; then, again, he is nothing more than a special minister, dispatched to make an apology and to offer atonement for the outrage on the frigate Chesapeake. If these contradictory publications can produce any effect in men's minds, it must be only such an one as will eventually go to destroy all confidence in the veracity of those prints which circulate them, and tend most essentially to depreciate in the estimation of every man of common understanding the precious benefits which the press is so admirably calculated to yield in society. It is, however, an evil to which the community have been subjected, ever since public gazettes became in any degree numerous. Dr. Johnson exercised his satirical skill against it without much success; and it has always been a topic of regret with men of understanding and honesty in all countries where it has prevailed. In many instances I know it proceeds from an overweening desire in men who really intend no mischief, to communicate to their readers the earliest *information*, as they term it: But one would suppose that the long experience of such things, which has shewn them to be commonly inventions or exaggerations of incidents, might induce them to be more frugal in giving currency to these reports. They may be assured that government will, at convenient season, give publicity to every circumstance within its knowledge, necessary to enlighten the minds of the citizens at large. In some cases, there is much more political knavery than any real desire of coming at the truth. Many presses, in the very worst spirit of wickedness, seek to agitate and to distract the public mind, in order to weaken administration, certainly either with the view of regaining that heaven of their hopes—*supreme power*; or for the purpose of cheering up G. Britain to a higher tone of assumption against the rights of the American people. Such men must surely imagine the citizens of the United States to be either very credulous by nature or very obsequious to impostors, when from day to day, they attempt to palm upon them the most absurd rumors in the most contradictory style. I know of no apt parallel to these endeavors to sport with the public judgment, except it

be that scene in Hamlet, where he plays the wag with an old courtier : But I trust the community are not of such easy faith as Polonius, who is the mere echo of the prince of Denmark's satirical drollery—

“HAM. *Do you see yonder cloud, that's almost in shape of a camel?*”

“POL. *By the mass, and 'tis like a camel, indeed.*”

“HAM. *Methinks it is like a weazel.*”

“POL. *It is back'd like a weazel.*”

“HAM. *Or, like a whale.*”

“POL. *Very like a whale.*”

If the propagators of these opposite conceits would do but common justice to their readers, they would tell them in plain English that *they know nothing of the matter*. But as this honesty of confession would not comport with their humor or their designs, there is no rational hope of amendment.

Without intending any thing of the kind, the inventors of these tales have pourtrayed Mr. Rose in a situation at once ludicrous for himself and derogatory to the nation of which he is the representative. I must believe that he views their conduct with as much pain as they experience delight from the amusing and edifying variety of their labors. Some prints, which affect a degree of superior intelligence on the diplomatic proceedings of the British envoy (the Gazette of the United States, and the North American, for instance) tell us that Mr. Rose has put a kind of probing question to Mr. Madison, in order to ascertain whether, if complete and satisfactory reparation were made for the outrage on the Chesapeake, the president would recal the proclamation interdicting British ships of war from our ports and harbors? to which the secretary of state replied, they

tell us, that the attack on the Chesapeake is by no means considered as the sole cause of complaint against Great Britain; and that if that affair had not happened, the president would, in all probability, have soon issued a proclamation of similar import. From this question, and the answer to it, an inference is gravely drawn that the British government is extremely accommodating in its temper, whilst the American administration is perversely stubborn. I will not fall out with the coiners or publishers of this ingenious statement; but without expressing either my belief or incredulity as to the fact, I presume I may venture succinctly to discuss the subject. I speak alone to the merits of the case, without any allusion to the actual state of the negotiation.

The United States for a series of years had borne from Great Britain with exemplary magnanimity the impressment of their seamen, the interruption of their commerce, and the insolence of English naval commanders. Representation and remonstrance to obtain redress had been resorted to in vain. Two ministers had been dispatched to her court to treat for an accommodation of differences, without success. No accommodation upon just and permanent grounds was offered: A project indeed was submitted for consideration, which carried with it a provision destructive of its existence, and even without which to have accepted it would only have disgraced us. New overtures were made without a favorable result: And at this stage of the business the outrage was committed on the Chesapeake. Demands were made on that head at London for atonement and satisfaction. The mission of Mr. Rose ensued.

Under all these circumstances, what would a reasonable man suppose was the purport of the British envoy's visit to this country? No new treaty had been concluded between the American ministers and the court of St. James. Former and grievous complaints had not been attended to there. But Mr. Rose arrives here; for what? To render satisfaction, they tell us, for the flagrant attack on the Chesapeake. Supposing the atonement for that insult were entire and pleasing; are all our wrongs and all our sufferings to be forgotten in a frantic joy for an act of common justice in one particular case? Was the attack on the Chesapeake to merge all other considerations of national interest and honor; as if it were only necessary for a foreign power to act the last scene in the tragedy of wrongs, and by apologizing for its treachery and bloodshed in that, escape responsibility for inferior offences? If, indeed, we have no other serious cause of displeasure with Great Britain; then are the people of this nation a pack of clamorous knaves, and our most enlightened statesmen a set of calumniating gossips. But, if I am rightly informed, the registers of the British navy can tell a tale, and the records of British admiralty courts and orders of king George's council display a history, which British ministers dare not quote in the face of the world, and appeal to God and the nations of the earth for the rectitude of their conduct towards this republic.

Let me suppose, nevertheless, for a moment (no matter how absurd) that reparation for the outrage on the Chesapeake would heal the festering wounds of this country; how, according to the gentlemen who have undertaken to speak for him, has Mr.

Rose conducted himself in the affair? He comes to *make atonement*; and the first act of his mission, we are told, is to DEMAND A CONCESSION from this government! I scorn to contend with such miserable bigots; such frivolous logicians: Let them hasten to Africa, and incorporate themselves in the commonwealth of those ingenious animals which are frequently imported for the amusement of the curious.

The editor of the North American tells us, indeed, that from Great Britain, "*Every thing that honor and justice could demand has been offered*;" and that "*Our government takes high ground and recedes not an inch*." Whence he obtained the information I know not: But as "*honor and justice*" with one man is not always "*honor and justice*" with another man, he ought at least to have told us what Mr. Rose *did* offer. "The spirit of accommodation (says the same print) exists only on the side of the British, and on ours a temper is manifested that forbids even *humiliation to hope*." Who would not believe, from this language, that Mr. Rose had done every thing which "*honor and justice*" do, *really*, demand? But these unfortunate scribblers always betray themselves; and by the inconsistency of their narrative make even a dignified subject ridiculous. The North American in the same paragraph which declares that "*Every thing that honor and justice could demand has been offered*," informs us that administration refused to annul the proclamation of interdiction unless Mr. Rose would *previously* state what the compensation for the outrage, on the Chesapeake was to be; which (we are seriously admonished) would have been to wave the *point of honor*

and submit to degrade his nation by appearing in the character of a *suppliant*." I leave it for the fertile genius of Mr. Wagner to reconcile this paradox ; and to explain to the public how Mr. Rose could have *offered every thing that honor and justice could demand*, when at the same time he *refused to disclose what compensation he would offer*.

How extremely awkward and unfortunate is the situation of that man or that minister, who is cursed with a set of busy, meddling friends, whose zeal in his service is only calculated to dishonor him. In a great national affair, Mr. Rose is represented by the North American in the character of a dancing master—standing out upon *etiquette* and the "*point of honor*." Who but must feel for the British envoy, thus beset by advocates who in the most sincere and ardent spirit of friendship, degrade his understanding?

FOREIGN NEWS.—(*continued from page 58.*)—In the course of the three last weeks, information of the most important nature has reached the U. States from Europe. The rumored change in the British ministry turns out, what I apprehended it might be, a mere opposition joke. Neither lord Castlereagh, nor the duke of Portland, were, it is now proved, sick enough to resign ; and poor Old England appears still to be tortured with all the evils of the younger Pitt's political system, without his genius to direct the government.

The rupture between Great-Britain and Russia was ripened to open hostilities by degrees. Both powers, I conjecture, were loth to proceed to extremities, after the long and intimate connection that had subsisted between their respective governments.

If political friendships could be cemented by gold and blood, the bond of amity between Alexander and George the third would surely have been eternal. The soil of Switzerland, the banks of the Rhine, the interior of Austria, and the northern extremities of Prussia, have, within the compass of less than ten years, been moistened by Russian blood, purchased by English subsidies : But the imperial ruler of the north of Europe, reaping neither honor nor profit from these shameful coalitions, forgetting the holy flame of indignation that once filled the breasts of his predecessors and himself against what were called the regicide French and the Corsican usurper, has turned fairly about, shaken hands with Napoleon, and thrown his heels in the face of his ancient ally. There was, however, a seeming reluctance on both sides to come to a decided quarrel too suddenly ; and, accordingly, the following preliminary steps were adopted :—

" RUSSIAN UKASE.

" *To Count Nicolay Petrowitz Romanzoff.*

" In consequence of the present political circumstances, which have compelled us to break off all connections with Britain, we order :

" I. An embargo to be laid on all British ships in our harbors, and on all property of the British on board of the same, as also on that at 'Change and in the custom-house pack-houses.

" II. Their immovable property, and what does not consist of goods, to be left in their possession as heretofore, but not to be allowed to be sold, mortgaged, or transferred into other hands. Taking such measures merely from our evident mercy to them, we hope they will not, during the existing difference, transgress

their duty by actions which might prove prejudicial to Russia, and thus incur our just displeasure, but live in due quietness and tranquility.

" III. Concerning the embargo, a committee is to be appointed at this port, of the most respectable Russian merchants, and one member of the college of commerce; authorising you to select these men, we leave it to you to form this committee, and to inform us of the same.

" IV. Similar committees to be appointed at Riga and Archangel, which are to be dependent on the one here. The selection and appointment of the members of them to be left to the military governors, directing also to the civil department, and where no such are, to the civil governors.

" V. The charges which may accrue on this occasion to be provided from the revenues of the respective custom houses, and placed to the account of the sequestered ships and goods. We are, &c.

" (*Signed by his imperial majesty's hand*),

" ALEXANDER.

" *St. Petersburg, Oct. 20, 1807.*"

This sequestration order, the reader will perceive, bears date the 20th of October, 1807: Six days afterwards the Russian emperor followed it up by a declaration, (*see page 55, No. 4.*) reproachful indeed, but not indicative of offensive war. On the receipt of that declaration in London, the British cabinet were contented, in the first instance, with notifying the lord mayor of the fact, through Mr. Canning, for public information.—This was done on the 2nd of December, (*see page 57, No. 4.*) and it was not until the 9th of that month, (seven days afterwards) that the English government issued the following order:

" *At the court at the Queen's palace the 9th December 1807, present the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.*

" It is this day ordered by his majesty, by and with the advice of his privy council, that no ships or vessels belonging to any of his majesty's subjects, be permitted to enter and clear out for any of the ports within the dominions of the emperor of Russia until further order; and his majesty is further pleased to order, that a general embargo, or stop be made of all ships and vessels whatsoever, belonging to the subjects of the emperor of Russia now within, or which shall hereafter come into, any of the ports, harbors, or roads within any part of his majesty's dominions, together with all persons and effects on board all such ships and vessels; and that the commanders of his majesty's ships of war and privateers do detain and bring into port all ships and vessels, belonging to the subjects of the emperor of Russia, or bearing the flag of the emperor of Russia; but that the utmost care be taken for the preservation of all and every part of the cargoes on board any of the said ships or vessels, so that no damage or embezzlement whatever be sustained; and the commanders of his majesty's ships of war and privateers are hereby instructed to detain and bring into port every such ship and vessel accordingly: And the honorable the lords commissioners of his majesty's treasury, the lords commissioners of the admiralty, and the lord warden of the cinque ports, are to give the necessary directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

" W. FAWKENER."

The phraseology of this order, is indicative of a hope still alive in the British cabinet, that Russia might be

von back to her former amicable position. Ten days elapsed before a counter-declaration was promulgated on the part of Great Britain; in which time it may be reasonably presumed measures were taken to ascertain conclusively the probable success of an effort to woo Alexander into good humor. It was found, however, that he was too far gone in French politics to retrace the steps he had trod; and on the 13th day of December, the following declaration appeared in the London Gazette Extraordinary:

" DECLARATION.

" The declaration issued at St. Petersburg by his majesty the emperor of all the Russias, has excited in his majesty's mind the strongest sensations of astonishment and regret.

" His majesty was not unaware of the nature of those secret engagements which had been imposed upon Russia in the conferences of Tilsit; but his majesty had entertained the hope, that a review of the transactions of that unfortunate negotiation, and a just estimate of its effects upon the glory of the Russian name, and upon the interests of the Russian empire, would have induced his imperial majesty to extricate himself from the embarrassment of those new counsels and connexions which he had adopted in a moment of despondency and alarm; and to return to a policy more congenial to the principles which he has so invariably professed, and more conducive to the honor of his crown, and to the prosperity of his dominions.

" This hope has dictated to his majesty the utmost forbearance and moderation in all his diplomatic intercourse with the court of St. Petersburg since the peace of Tilsit.

" His majesty had much cause for suspicion, and just ground of com-

plaint. But he abstained from the language of reproach. His majesty deemed it necessary to require specific explanation with respect to those arrangements with France, the concealment of which from his majesty could not but confirm the impression already received of their character and tendency. But his majesty, nevertheless, directed the demand of that explanation to be made, not only without asperity or the indication of any hostile disposition, but with that considerate regard to the feelings and situation of the emperor of Russia, which resulted from the recollection of former friendship, and from confidence interrupted but not destroyed.

" The declaration of the emperor of Russia proves that the object of his majesty's forbearance and moderation has not been attained. It proves, unhappily, that the influence of that power, which is equally and essentially the enemy both of Great Britain and Russia, has acquired a decided ascendancy in the councils of the cabinet of St. Petersburg, and has been able to excite a causeless enmity between two nations, whose long established connexion, and whose mutual interests prescribed the most intimate union and co-operation.

" His majesty deeply laments the extension of the calamities of war. But called upon as he is, to defend himself against an act of unprovoked hostility, his majesty is anxious to refute, in the face of the world, the pretexts by which that act is attempted to be justified.

" The declaration asserts, that his majesty the emperor of Russia has twice taken up arms in a cause in which the interest of Great Britain was more direct than his own; and founds upon this assertion the charge

against G. Britain of having neglected to second and support the military operations of Russia.

"His majesty willingly does justice to the motives which originally engaged Russia in the great struggle against France. His majesty avows, with equal readiness, the interest which G. Britain has uniformly taken in the fates and fortunes of the powers of the continent. But it would surely be difficult to prove that Great Britain, who was herself in a state of hostility with Prussia when the war broke out between Prussia and France, had an interest and a duty more direct in espousing the Prussian quarrel, than the emperor of Russia; the ally of his Prussian majesty, the protector of the North of Europe, and the guarantee of the Germanic constitution.

"It is not in a public declaration that his majesty can discuss the policy of having, at any particular period of the war, effected, or omitted to effect, disembarkations of troops on the coasts of Naples—But the instance of the war with the Porte is still more singularly chosen to illustrate the charge against G. Britain of indifference to the interests of her ally: a war undertaken by G. Britain at the instigation of Russia, and solely for the purpose of maintaining Russian interests against the influence of France.

"If, however, the peace of Tilsit is, indeed, to be considered as the consequence and the punishment of the imputed inactivity of G. Britain, his majesty cannot but regret that the emperor of Russia should have resorted to so precipitate and fatal a measure at the moment when he had received distinct assurances that his majesty was making the most strenuous exertions to fulfil the wishes and

expectations of his ally (assurances which his imperial majesty received and acknowledged with apparent confidence and satisfaction;) and when his majesty was, in fact, prepared to employ for the advancement of the common objects of the war, those forces which, after the peace of Tilsit, he was under the necessity of employing to disconcert a combination directed against his own immediate interest and security.

"The vexation of Russian commerce by G. Britain is in truth, little more than an imaginary grievance.—Upon a diligent examination, made by his majesty's command, of the records of the British court of admiralty, there has been discovered only a solitary instance in the course of the present war, of the condemnation of a vessel really Russian—a vessel which carried naval stores to a port of the common enemy. There are but few instances of Russian vessels detained, and none in which justice has been refused to a party regularly complaining of such detention. It is, therefore, matter of surprise, as well as of concern to his majesty, that the emperor of Russia should have condescended to bring forward a complaint which as it cannot be seriously felt by those in whose behalf it is urged, might appear to be intended to countenance those exaggerated declamations by which France perseveringly endeavors to inflame the jealousy of other countries, and to justify her own inveterate animosity against G. Britain.

"The peace of Tilsit was followed by an offer of mediation on the part of the emperor of Russia, for the conclusion of a peace between Great Britain and France, which it is asserted that his majesty refused.

"His majesty did not refuse the

mediation of the emperor of Russia ; although the offer of it was accompanied by circumstances of concealment which might well have justified his refusal. The articles of the treaty of Tilsit were not communicated to his majesty ; and specifically that article of the treaty in virtue of which the mediation was proposed ; and which prescribed a limited time for the return of his majesty's answer to that proposal. And his majesty was thus led into an apparent compliance with a limitation so offensive to the dignity of an independent sovereign. But the answer so returned by his majesty was not a refusal. It was a conditional acceptance. The conditions required by his majesty were—a statement of the basis upon which the enemy was disposed to treat ; and a communication of the articles of the treaty of the peace of Tilsit.—The first of these conditions was precisely the same which the emperor of Russia had himself annexed not four months before to his own acceptance of the proffered mediation of the emperor of Austria. The second one which his majesty would have had a right to require even as the ally of his imperial majesty, but which it would have been highly improvident in him to omit, when he was invited to confide to his imperial majesty the care of his honor and of his interests.

“ But even if these conditions (neither of which has been fulfilled, although the fulfilment of them has been repeatedly required by his majesty's ambassador at St. Petersburg) had not been in themselves perfectly natural and necessary ; there were not wanting considerations which might have warranted his majesty in endeavoring, with more than ordinary anxiety, to ascertain the views and intentions of the emperor of Russia,

and the precise nature and effect of the new relations which his imperial majesty had contracted.

“ The complete abandonment of the interests of the king of Prussia (who had twice rejected proposals of separate peace, from a strict adherence to his engagements with his imperial ally) and the character of those provisions which the emperor of Russia was contented to make for his own interests in the negotiations of Tilsit, presented no encouraging prospect of the result of any exertions which his imperial majesty might be disposed to employ in favor of Great Britain.

“ It is not while a French army still occupies and lays waste the remaining dominions of the King of Prussia, in spite of the stipulations of the Prussian treaty of Tilsit ; while contributions are arbitrarily exacted by France from that remnant of the Prussian monarchy, such as in its entire and most flourishing state the Prussian monarchy would have been unable to discharge ; while the surrender is demanded, in time of peace, of Prussian fortresses, which had not been reduced during the war ; and while the power of France is exercised over Prussia with such shameless tyranny as to designate and demand for instant death, individuals, subjects of his Prussian majesty, and resident in his dominions, upon a charge of disrespect towards the French government ; it is not while all these things are done and suffered, under the eyes of the Emperor of Russia, and without his interference on behalf of his ally, that his Majesty can feel himself called upon to account to Europe for having hesitated to repose an unconditional confidence in the efficacy of his Imperial Majesty's mediation.

"Nor, even if that mediation had taken full effect, if a peace had been concluded under it, and that peace guaranteed by his Imperial Majesty, could his majesty have placed implicit reliance on the stability of any such arrangement, after having seen the emperor of Russia openly transfer to France, the sovereignty of the Ionian Republic, the independence of which his Imperial Majesty had recently and solemnly guaranteed.

"But while the alledged rejection of the emperor of Russia's mediation between Great Britain and France, is stated as a just ground of his Imperial Majesty's resentment: His majesty's request of that mediation, for the re-establishment of peace between Great Britain and Denmark, is represented as an insult which it was beyond the bounds of his Imperial Majesty's moderation to endure.

"His Majesty feels himself under no obligation to offer any atonement or apology to the emperor of Russia for the expedition against Copenhagen. It is not for those who were parties to the secret arrangements of Tilsit to demand satisfaction for a measure to which those arrangements gave rise, and by which one of the objects of them has been happily defeated.

"His majesty's justification of the expedition against Copenhagen, is before the world. The declaration of the Emperor of Russia would supply whatever was wanting in it, if any thing could be wanting to convince the most incredulous of the urgency that necessity under which his majesty acted.

"But until the Russian declaration was published, his majesty had no reason to suspect that any opinions which the emperor of Russia might entertain of the transactions at Copen-

hagen, could be such as to preclude his imperial majesty from undertaking, at the request of Great Britain, that same office of mediator, which he had assumed with so much alacrity on the behalf of France; nor can his majesty forget that the first symptoms of reviving confidence, since the peace of Tilsit, the only prospect of success in the endeavors of his majesty's ambassador to restore the ancient and good understanding between Great Britain and Russia, appeared when the intelligence of the siege of Copenhagen had been recently received at St. Petersburg.

"The inviolability of the Baltic sea, and the reciprocal guarantees of the powers that border upon it, guarantees said to have been contracted with the knowledge of the British government, are stated as aggravations of his majesty's proceedings in the Baltic. It cannot be intended to represent his majesty as having at any time acquiesced in the principles upon which the inviolability of the Baltic is maintained; however his majesty may at particular periods have forborne, for special reasons, influencing his conduct at the time, to act in contradiction to them. Such forbearance never could have applied but to a state of peace and real neutrality in the north; and his majesty most assuredly could not be expected to recur to it, after France has been suffered to establish herself in undisputed sovereignty along the whole coast of the Baltic sea, from Dantzick to Lubeck.

"But the higher the value which the emperor of Russia places on the engagements respecting the tranquility of the Baltic, which he describes himself as inheriting from his immediate predecessors, the empress Catharine and the emperor Paul, the less

ly can his imperial majesty resent the appeal made to him by his majesty as the guarantee of the peace to be concluded between G. B. and Denmark. In making that appeal, with the utmost confidence and sincerity, his majesty neither intended, nor can he imagine that he offered any insult to the emperor of Russia. Nor can his majesty conceive that in proposing to the Prince Royal terms of peace such as the most successful war on the part of Denmark could hardly have been expected to extort from G. Britain, his majesty rendered himself liable to the imputation, either of exasperating the resentment, or of outraging the dignity of Denmark.

" His majesty has thus replied to all the different accusations by which the Russian government labor to justify the rupture of a connexion which has subsisted for ages, with reciprocal advantage to G. Britain and Russia; and attempts to disguise the operation of that external influence by which Russia is driven into unjust hostilities for interests not her own.

" The Russian declaration proceeds to announce the several conditions on which alone these hostilities can be terminated, and the intercourse of the two countries renewed.

" His majesty has already had occasion to assert that justice has in no instance been denied to the claims of his imperial majesty's subjects.

" The termination of the war with Denmark has been so anxiously sought by his majesty, that it cannot be necessary for his majesty to renew any professions upon that subject. But his majesty is at a loss to reconcile the emperor of Russia's present anxiety for the completion of such an arrangement with his imperial majesty's recent refusal to contribute his good offices for effecting it.

" The requisition of his imperial majesty for the immediate conclusion by his majesty of a peace with France is as extraordinary in the substance as it is offensive in the manner. His majesty has at no time declined to treat with France, when France has professed a willingness to treat on any admissible basis. And the emperor of Russia cannot fail to remember, that the last negotiation between G. Britain and France was broken off upon points immediately affecting, not his majesty's own interest, but those of his imperial ally. But his majesty neither understands, nor will he admit the pretension of the emperor of Russia to dictate the time or the mode of his majesty's pacific negotiation with other powers. It never will be endured by his majesty that any government shall indemnify itself for the humiliation of subserviency to France by the adoption of an insulting and peremptory tone towards Great Britain.

" His majesty proclaims anew those principles of maritime law, against which the Armed Neutrality, under the auspices of the empress Catharine, was originally directed; and against which the present hostilities of Russia are denounced. Those principles have been recognized and acted upon in the best periods of the history of Europe; and acted upon by no power with more strictness and severity than by Russia herself in the reign of the empress Catharine.

" Those principles it is the right and the duty of his majesty to maintain: and against every confederacy his majesty is determined, under the blessings of Divine Providence, to maintain them. They have at all times contributed essentially to the support of the maritime power of Great Britain; but they have become

incalculably more valuable and important at a period when the maritime power of Great Britain constitutes the sole remaining bulwark against the overwhelming usurpations of France; the only refuge to which other nations may resort, in happier times, for assistance and protection.

"When the opportunity for peace between Great Britain and Russia shall arrive, his majesty will embrace it with eagerness. The arrangements of such a negotiation will not be difficult or complicated. His majesty, as he has nothing to concede, so he has nothing to require: satisfied if Russia shall manifest a disposition to return to her ancient feelings of friendship towards G. Britain; to a just consideration of her own true interests; and to a sense of her own dignity as an independent nation."

On this state paper I shall make no further comment at this moment, than to observe that it is one of the best written that has for a long time appeared from the British government. The subjoined order was issued at the same time:

"At the court of Windsor, the 18th of Dec. 1807; present the king's most excellent majesty in council.

"His majesty having taken into consideration the injurious and hostile proceedings of the emperor of all the Russias, as set forth in the declaration of this date, issued by his majesty's command: and being determined to take such measures as are necessary for vindicating the honor of his crown and procuring reparation and satisfaction, his majesty therefore is pleased, by and with the advice of his privy council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that general reprisals be granted against the ships,

goods, and subjects, of the emperor of all the Russias (save and except any vessels to which his majesty's licence has been granted, or which have been directed to be released from the embargo, and have not since arrived at any foreign ports,) so that as well his majesty's fleet and ships, as also all other ships and vessels that shall be commissioned by letters of marque or general reprisals, or otherwise by his majesty's commissioners for executing the office of lord high admiral of Great-Britain, shall and may lawfully seize all ships, vessels, and goods belonging to the emperor of all the Russias, or his subjects, or others inhabiting within the territories of the emperor of all the Russias, and bring the same to judgment in any of the courts of admiralty within his majesty's dominions, &c. &c.

"CAMDEN, P. WESTMORELAND,
C. P. S. HAWKESBURY, MUL-
GRAVE, ST. HELENS, S. P.
PERCEVAL, GEORGE CAN-
NING."

CARRYING TRADE.—I have always been one of those who sincerely believe the carrying trade to be of immense importance to the people of this country, notwithstanding the rude philippic pronounced against it by the honorable John Randolph. In that gentleman's celebrated speech on Mr. Gregg's non-intercourse resolution he only proved how much easier it is to *rail* than to reason. It would have been far more to his credit if instead of calling that trade a "*fungus*," he had shewn us, arithmetically, the disadvantages of it. *Figures cannot deceive.* I beg the reader to peruse the following letter from the secretary of the treasury with attention. It is a clever little manual

for the citizens, who will find that nearly one million and an half of dollars of our public revenue, by means of this carrying trade, are paid by the subjects of foreign powers, and, of course, is to that amount a diminution of tax on the people of this country. There is one question which I wish every man to put to himself—If the carrying trade is so insignificant as certain quaint politicians assure us it is, why does Great Britain appear so restive at our enjoyment of it? This is a subject which I shall have occasion to treat more at large hereafter: In the mean time the subjoined documents, and particularly the concise and comprehensive table of Mr. Blodget, (a gentleman who certainly possesses much merit as a statistical compiler,) will be highly interesting to every American:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 27th, 1808.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a statement of goods, wares and merchandize exported from the United States during one year prior to the first day of October, 1807, and amounting to 108,343,150 dollars.

The goods, wares and merchandize of domestic growth or manufacture, included in this statement, are estimated at

\$48,699,592

And those of foreign growth or manufacture at

59,643,558

108,343,150

The foreign goods may be divided into three classes, viz.

1st. Articles on the importation of which no duty had been col-

lected, they being free of duty by law,

\$2,080,114

2nd. Articles liable to duty, and which were, on re-exportation thereof, entitled to drawback,

48,205,943

3d. Articles liable to duty, but which were not on re-exportation thereof, entitled to drawback,

9,357,501

59,643,558

The duties collected on the importation of the articles of the third class, and which, not being paid by consumers within the U. States, are derived directly from the carrying trade, amount to 1,393,877 dollars, exclusively of the additional duties designated by the name of "Mediterranean fund."

The articles of domestic growth or manufacture exported during the period aforesaid, may be arranged under the following heads, viz.

Produce of the Sea, \$2,804,000

Forest, 5,476,000

Agriculture, 37,832,000

Manufactures, 2,409,000

Uncertain, 179,000

48,700,000

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ALBERT GALLATIN.

*The honorable the Speaker of
the House of Representatives.* }

Summary of Exports from the United States for five years.

[FROM BLODGET'S STATISTICAL VIEWS.]

PRODUCE	Year 1803	1804	1805	1806	1807
of the sea - - -	2,635,000	3,420,000	2,884,000	3,116,000	2,804,000
of the forest - -	4,820,000	4,630,000	5,261,000	4,861,000	5,476,000
of agriculture -	32,995,000	30,890,000	31,562,000	32,375,000	37,832,000
of manufactures	1,655,000	2,100,000	2,525,000	2,707,000	2,120,000
Miscellaneous -	300,000	430,000	155,000	445,000	468,000
Total Domestic	42,405,000	41,470,000	42,387,000	43,504,000	48,700,000
Foreign articles	13,585,073	36,231,597	53,179,021	60,283,236	59,643,558
Total exported	55,990,073	77,701,597	95,566,021	103,787,236	108,343,558

MILITARY.—The following are the documents referred to in the president's message to congress on Friday last—(see page 112.)

WAR DEPARTMENT,

February 24, 1808.

The President of the United States.

SIR,

I take the liberty of suggesting whether, under existing circumstances, it would not be advisable to propose to congress an augmentation of our regular troops as soon as practicable; and also the engaging and organizing of twenty four thousand volunteers, on the principles I had the honor of proposing for your consideration, the general outlines of which are contained in the paper marked No. 1.

The number of regular troops I would propose being raised immediately, is six thousand, to be composed of suitable proportions of infantry, artillery, cavalry and riflemen, and organised as stated in the enclosed paper, marked No. 2.

It may be presumed, that, previous to the close of the present session congress will be possessed of such farther information in regard to our foreign relations, as will be necessary for forming an ultimate opinion on the expediency or in expediency of a

greater augmentation of our army than is now proposed; and, in the mean time, measures may be taken for the recruiting service in different parts of the United States.

In the event of war it will, I presume, be considered necessary to arrange our military force into separate departments, and to have a commander to each department and of course to have no such officer as a commander in chief; and, until a larger army shall be raised than is now proposed it may not be advisable to have any officers above the rank of brigadier-generals; of that grade it may be proper to have four or five, as soon as a suitable proportion of the troops is raised. With sentiments of the highest respect,

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

H. DEARBORN.

(No 1.)

It is proposed to have engaged in the several states and territories, twenty four thousand volunteers to be enlisted to serve twelve months in any twenty four months, within the term of five years, at such times and places as the president of the U. S. shall direct; to be armed and equipped by the United States; and to be

regularly encamped in their respective states and territories from two to three months in each year ; and be exercised under the direction of inspectors to be appointed by the president of the United States ; to receive pay and rations and be furnished with camp equipage and one suit of uniform clothing once in three or four years ; the officers, except the inspectors and paymasters, to be appointed by the respective states ; the pay, annually to commence the day they march for the respective encampments and to continue until their return home, allowing one day for each twenty miles march to and from the encampments ; no corporal punishments to be inflicted, but all offences to be punished by close confinement and short allowance, or fines, or both : the commissioned officers to be governed by the rules and articles of war established for the regular army : the 24,000 to be apportioned on the states and territories, in such proportion as circumstances may require, and in such proportions of infantry, artillery, cavalry and riflemen, as the president of the U. S. shall direct ; and organized into companies, battalions, regiments and brigades, or other corps, as shall be found expedient according to the numbers in each state respectively ; and to be encamped in the respective states and territories, at such time and place, or places, as the president of the United States shall from time to time direct.

(No. 2.)

The six thousand regular troops may consist of five regiments of infantry, one regiment of riflemen, one regiment of light artillery, and one regiment of light cavalry.

The regiments of infantry, riflemen and artillery to consist of ten companies each, and the regiment of

cavalry of eight companies. The field and staff of each regiment to consist of one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, one major, one adjutant, one quarter master, one paymaster, one surgeon, one surgeon's mate, one sergeant major, one quarter master sergeant and two principal musicians, and the regiment of cavalry one riding master.

Each company of infantry and riflemen, to consist of one captain, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, one ensign, four sergeants, four corporals, four musicians, and sixty-eight privates.

Each company of artillery to consist of one captain, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, two cadets, four sergeants, four corporals, four musicians, eight artificers, and thirty eight privates.

Each company of cavalry to consist of one captain, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, one cornet, four sergeants, four corporals, two musicians, one saddler, one farrier, and thirty eight privates.

—
A second survey and measurement of the point and heights at Warburton, or Digges' Landing, has lately been made by colonel Williams and other engineer officers, for the purpose of designating the proper spot for the contemplated Batteries or Fort : And it is said that colonel Williams has chosen the very scite which General Washington, with Baron du Kalb and other engineers, had fixed on several years back, during the revolutionary war ; and which commands the channel in three directions — where it is deeper and of less width for two or three miles than either above or below. I understand it is nearly fronting Mount Vernon, and about twelve miles below the City of

Washington, with Alexandria about half way, and all in full view of each other.

CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE.—The following is the confidential Message to which I alluded last week, (page 112,) the injunction of secrecy having been taken off on Saturday by the house of representatives :

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States.

I enclose for the information of Congress letters recently received from our ministers at Paris and London, communicating their representations against the late decrees and orders of France and G. Britain, heretofore transmitted to Congress. These documents will contribute to the information of Congress, as to the dispositions of these two powers, and the probable course of their proceedings towards neutrals ; and will doubtless have their due influence in adapting the measures of the legislature to the actual crisis.

Although nothing forbids the general matter of these letters from being spoken of without reserve ; yet as the publication of papers of this description would restrain injuriously the freedom of our foreign correspondence, they are communicated, so far confidentially, and a request that after being read to the satisfaction of both houses, they may be returned.

TH: JEFFERSON.

February 26th, 1808.

The said message and papers accompanying the same being read,

A motion was made by Mr. Quincy and seconded that the house do come to the following resolution :

Resolved, That previous to a return of the papers accompanying the message of the president of the U. S. this

day communicated, the clerk of this house take and retain copies thereof.

Another motion was made by Mr. Quincy and seconded, that the house do come to the following resolution :

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to lay before this house such letters recently received from the American minister at Paris as accompanied the said minister's representations against the late decrees and orders of France, communicated to congress in his message of this day, under such restrictions as in his opinion the public interest may require.

And on the question that the house do now proceed to take the said motion into consideration,

It passed in the negative—yeas 60, nays 62.

I understand that the papers communicated by the President in his message consist of a correspondence between Mr. Armstrong and the Secretary of state, and Mr. Pinkney and the Secretary of state.

The letters of Mr. Armstrong are not very recent, and altogether relative to the condemnation of the ship *Horizon*.

The letters from Mr. Pinkney to Mr. Madison, are dated November 23d, Dec. 14th, Dec. 29th, and January 2nd.

The first letter is of considerable length, and details several conversations with Mr. Canning relative to the late British orders ; to which the subsequent letters are merely appendages. In these communications Mr. Pinkney takes a wide and forcible view of the injustice of these orders ; states an opinion that though popular they will not be of long continuance—and intimates that from his conversations with Mr. Canning, there is no hope of their relaxation.

Mr. Rose is said not to have been acquainted with them on his departure; having been sent on a *special* mission, and it being intended that Mr. Erskine should be continued as minister resident. The merchants had desired an explanation whether American produce might not pass unmolested, the answer given to which was in the negative. Mr. P. in his discussions with Mr. Canning contends that the French decree of November 21st is no justification of the British orders, the former involving only the exercise of *municipal* powers.

JOHN DICKINSON.—The uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, warn us of the inevitable destiny of man: At three score and ten, a tranquil and painless transit from this chequered scene, after an exemplary course of useful labors, religious observance, and moral rectitude, furnishes to those who survive, a source of pious exultation and honorable triumph.

The glory of this amiable man, our deceased fellow-citizen, can derive no lustre from personal eulogium or individual panegyric: it has been engraven by his own pen on tablets of unlimited duration, read in every Christian language, and acknowledged by every enlightened reader.

The Pennsylvania Farmer—dared to analyze power in its origin and to deduce right from its source, when the people of British America slumbered in dangerous repose, whilst the arm of power was insensibly extended to encompass them.

The pen of the illustrious deceased first taught the American colonists to think of themselves and for themselves. It taught them how to value the toils and perils of their ancestors, and to estimate their own force and

importance—It struck forth the first spark of rational liberty in this hemisphere; it taught the sons of Columbia to live free or to die free, and laid the foundation of that glorious superstructure which has become the envy of the world, and the last retreat of persecuted humanity.

As a man, our departed friend was meek, and mild, and gracious, and good; religious without austerity and pious without grimace; he pursued his course without ostentation, and was himself most happy when advancing the happiness of his fellow creatures.

As a statesman his mind ranged above the ordinary sphere of mortals. He did not draw the lightning from Heaven; but he gave birth to a nation, secured an asylum to the goddess of Liberty, and in this sequestered region laid the foundation of a mighty empire.

As a politician he was ever consistent, uniform and inflexible: and he lived and died, bearing testimony in favor of our republican institutions, and an ornament and honor to human nature.

Yesterday I received a Note signed "Joseph Clay," and dated "House of Representatives, March 4th, 1808." The final arrangement of matter for this week's Register had been made before I received it. I will publish the Note (agreeably to request) next week: In the meantime Mr. Clay may assure himself that I will, with the blessing of God, do him all the justice in my power.

A history of the Duel, including the speeches which led to it, together with other topics that I had contemplated discussing this week, are unavoidably postponed to the succeeding number.